

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of and access to all emails sent to or received from Christopher Zarba, a career employee for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), from November 1, 2017 through April 5, 2018.

Specifically, the emails I am seeking should contain any of the following terms:

"Security detail"

"Unethical Spending"

"Retaliation" or

"Marginalized"

The New York Times, an online news outlet, [reported](#) on April 5, 2018 that Zarba retired in February after receiving backlash within the agency for raising concerns about Pruitt's security requests and travel expenses. The NYT reported that at least four other EPA officials were reassigned, demoted or fired in the past year after questioning Pruitt's management of the office.

Kevin Chmielewski, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at the EPA, was put on unpaid administrative leave after he told Sens. Tom Carper's and Sheldon Whitehouse's staff that Pruitt had been abusing his office by spending unjustified amounts of money on travel and security.

Mario Caraballo, the deputy associate administrator of the EPA's Office of Homeland Security, was also fired on April 10, 2018 after his office conducted an assessment in February indicating that no credible threats justify Pruitt's security spending. Politico first [reported](#) the story.

I would like to receive this information in searchable PDFs via email or thumb drive. If that is not possible, I would prefer to receive them via CD or digital dropbox. I would prefer they be released on a rolling basis as documents become available, rather than as one large file.

The records will be used in articles disseminated to the public through The Daily Caller News Foundation, a nonprofit media organization and online wire service. The Daily Caller News Foundation also allows other news outlets to publish its stories free of charge.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information will contribute significantly to the public interest. Zarba's retirement, along with the termination of a number of other EPA officials, has generated a significant amount of traffic to news websites, including The Daily Caller News Foundation. The requested emails are of interest to the public because they will shed light on the circumstances surrounding Zarba's decision to retire.

If, however, I am denied a fee waiver, I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed \$25. However, please notify me prior to your incurring any expenses in excess of that amount.

Additionally, I request expedited processing. There are rumors that President Donald Trump will fire Pruitt due to numerous scandals surrounding the administrator, which would have a wide-reaching effect on the public. The news stories based on the documents I am requesting could potentially play a role in President Trump's decision.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

If there is anything that may cause denial, I am willing to amend my request and discuss it with you.

Please do not hesitate to call me with an questions or comments. I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail. I can be reached at grace@dailycallernewsfoundation.org or 240-743-9939.